

- 2 multiple users in a distributed value exchange system without requiring direct
communication between the users, the method comprising:
- 4 (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first
user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;
- 6 (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from
the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:
- 8 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-
existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the
10 value exchange system; and
- (ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;
- 12 (c) sending a notification of said value exchange transaction from the value
exchange system to the second user; and
- 14 (d) allocating said value between said first account and a second account
associated with the second user.

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2. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 (c') registering the second user with the value exchange system if not already
registered.
3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged
2 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the first user to the
second user.
4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged
2 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the second user to the
first user.
5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged
2 between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user as a
redeemable voucher.

2 6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein said redeemable voucher is
redeemable by the second user by selecting an electronic link provided to the second
user.

2 7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein the redeemable voucher
includes an electronic advertisement.

2 8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user through a debit
card.

2 9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user in the form of
a web certificate, and wherein the method further comprises:

4 transferring said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user
from the second user to a third user.

2 10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier
is a telephone number.

2 11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier
is an electronic mail address.

2 12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a value
exchange transaction comprises:

4 initiating a value exchange involving a second user on a mobile client device of
said first user;

establishing a connection between the first user and the value exchange system;

6 and

transmitting said value exchange to the system.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating a value
2 exchange transaction comprises establishing a communication link between the first
user's mobile computing device and a second user's mobile client device.
14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value exchange
2 transaction is received from the first user through a mobile communication device.
15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile
2 communication device is a personal digital assistant.
16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile
2 communication device is a telephone.
17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile
2 communication device is a two-way pager.
18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein said value exchange
2 transaction is received from the mobile communication device through a wireless
network.
19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile
2 communication device is a disconnectable device.
20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting said
2 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from a first form to a
second form.
21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said first form is a first
2 currency and said second form is a second currency.
22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the form of said value to

2 be exchanged between the first user and the second user depends on the pre-existing
2 identifier.

23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising holding said
2 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user in escrow with an
escrow party until said value exchange transaction is completed.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating (b),
2 (c) and (d) for a second value exchange transaction between the second user and a third
user.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein an asymmetric
2 cryptographic scheme is applied to secure said value exchange transaction.

26. (Once Amended) A method of facilitating an exchange of value
2 between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, comprising:

(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a
4 second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction
system and the instruction includes:

6 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed
transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user
8 independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second
10 user;

(b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed
12 transaction system;

(c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

14 (d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user.

27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is an
2 electronic mail address.

28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is a
2 telephone number.

29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said instruction is
2 received through a mobile communication device operated by the first user.

30. (Once Amended) A method of facilitating a financial transaction
2 between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the
method comprising:

4 (a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;
(b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange
6 request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said
financial transaction request includes:

8 (i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said
financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify
10 the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the
financial services system; and

12 (ii) an amount of the financial exchange;

(c) sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the
14 distributed financial service system to the second user; and

(d) allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user
16 and the second user.

31. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing
2 identifier is an electronic mail address.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing
2 identifier is a telephone number.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

- 2 (c') registering the second user with the distributed financial services system
before allocating said amount of said financial exchange.

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- 2 34. (Once Amended) A value exchange system for exchanging value
2 between multiple users, comprising:
a database configured to store information concerning registered users of the
4 value exchange system and details of transactions conducted by the registered users;
a synchronization server configured to receive a first value exchange transaction
6 from a client device operated by a first party, wherein said first value exchange
transaction involves a second party identified by the first party with an electronic mail
8 address; and
a communication server configured to:
10 notify the second party of said first value exchange transaction using said
electronic mail address; and
12 receive a connection from the second party and register the second party if
not already registered.

- 2 35. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a financial
server configured to interact with a financial institution to access value to facilitate said
first value exchange transaction.

- 2 36. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a security
server configured to generate a digital identity certificate that may be used to authenticate
the first party.

- 2 37. (Unchanged) The system of claim 36, wherein said security server is
further configured to authenticate a digital transaction certificate that may be used to
authenticate said value exchange transaction.

38. CANCEL

39. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of
facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange
4 system without requiring direct communication between the users, the method
comprising:
6 (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first
user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;
8 (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from
the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:
10 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-
existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the
12 value exchange system; and
(ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;
14 (c) sending a notification of said value exchange transaction from the value
exchange system to the second user; and
16 (d) allocating said value between said first account and a second account
associated with the second user.

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40. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating an
exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, the
4 method comprising:
(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a
6 second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction
system and the instruction includes:
8 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed
transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user
10 independently of the distributed transaction system; and
(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second
12 user;

- 14 (b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system;
- (c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and
- 16 (d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user.

41. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial
4 services system, the method comprising:

- (a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;
- 6 (b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said
8 financial transaction request includes:

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(i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said
10 financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the
12 financial services system; and

- (ii) an amount of the financial exchange;
- 14 (c) sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and
- 16 (d) allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

42. (New) A system for facilitating the transfer of value from one user
2 to another user, comprising:

means for receiving a value transfer request from a value provider, wherein said
4 value transfer request comprises:

- an electronic mail address of a value receiver; and
- 6 a first value to be transferred from the value provider to the value receiver;
- means for transferring said first value from a first account associated with the
8 value provider to a second account associated with the value receiver; and

means for notifying the value receiver of said value transfer;
10 wherein the value receiver is identifiable, for purposes of said value transfer, only
by said electronic mail address.

43. (New) A method of transferring value, comprising:
2 receiving a connection from a registered user of a value transfer system;
receiving from the registered user a request to execute a transfer to an
4 unregistered party, wherein the unregistered party is identified only by an electronic mail
address, the request comprising:
6 said electronic mail address of the unregistered party; and
a first value to be transferred to the unregistered party; and
8 sending notification of said transfer from said value transfer system to the
unregistered party via electronic mail.

ab 44. (New) A method of transferring value, comprising:
2 receiving a connection from a first user of a value transfer system;
receiving from the first user a request to execute a value transfer to a second user,
4 the request comprising:
an electronic mail address of the second user; and
6 a first value to be transferred to the second user; and
sending a notification of said value transfer from said value transfer system to the
8 second user via electronic mail;
wherein said electronic mail address is sufficient for said value transfer system to
10 transfer said first value an account of the first user to an account associated with the
second user.

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract provided on the following page:

a4 —
A system and method for facilitating a value exchange transaction. A first party initiates the transaction by selecting or providing an identifier of another party and the value to be exchanged. The second party may be identified by a pre-existing identifier such as an electronic mail address, telephone number, etc. The system informs the second party of the transaction (e.g., using the specified pre-existing identifier). If the second party is not a registered user of the system, he or she is invited to register and complete the transaction. The system may comprise a synchronization server for exchanging transaction details with users' devices, a communication server for registering new users and/or conducting transactions online and a financial server for interacting with external financial institutions.